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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/727,060	11/30/2000	Randall J. Stephens	TI-28757	2716

7590 07/17/2002

Texas Instruments Incorporated
Mark E. Courtney
P.O. Box 655474, MS 3999
Dallas, TX 75265

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, PATRICIA T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2817

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/727,060

Applicant(s)

STEPHENS ET AL.

Examiner

Patricia T. Nguyen

Art Unit

2817

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-6 and 13-20, drawn to an amplifier classified in class 330, subclass 207A.
- II. Claims 7-12 drawn to a control circuit classified in class 330, subclass 51.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions group I and group 2 are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the control circuit in claim 1 does not have the particulars as claimed in claim 7. The subcombination has separate utility such as a control circuit for various electronics and communication circuits.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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A telephone call was made to Mr. Courtney on 7/12/2002 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1927. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pascal can be reached on (703) 308-4909. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-0142 for regular communications and (703) 305-0142 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

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PTN

July 15, 2002

PATRICIA NGUYEN

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Dear United States Patent and Trademark Office Customer:

Quality and customer satisfaction are important to Technology Center 2800.

Technology Center 2800 has taken continuous quality improvement efforts to ensure that the accompanying correspondence meets high quality standards, and focuses on good customer service. It is important to us that you are satisfied with the services we provide.

If the communication you have received has any issues that raise concerns as to the quality and/or clarity of the action taken by the examiner, we invite you to contact the appropriate Supervisory Primary Examiner. You may also contact one of our Quality Assurance Specialists.

Quality Assurance Specialists:

Don Hajec.....703-308-4075

Paul Dzierzynski.....703-308-4822

If the contents of the attached correspondence have any clerical omissions, e.g., missing references or pages, illegible text, or any other similar errors, please contact us at the number below. We will take appropriate action to expedite the necessary corrections. Also, if you have general questions concerning any application assigned to Technology Center 2800, please contact our Customer Service Center. Questions concerning the merits of the application must be directed to the Examiner in charge of the particular application, then to the supervisor if appropriate.

TC 2800 Customer Service Center Crystal Plaza 4-6th floor, D-corridor

Customer Service Representatives:

Linda M. Hodge-Taylor CP4-6-D32

Wynette Stapor CP4-6-D30

The Customer Service Center is open to receive requests for service in person, by phone 703-306-3329, or Fax 703-306-5515, from 8:30 am- 5:00 p.m. each business day.

Attention: Policy on Returning Telephone Calls

USPTO-wide customer service standards state that if a USPTO employee being called is not available, they will return your call by the next business day, or, if you request, an alternate point of contact will be provided. Technology Center 2800 is committed to meeting this service standard. If you have called any employee in our Technology Center and have not received a return phone call within one (1) business day or have not been provided another point of contact, please contact our Customer Service Center at 703-306-3329. We ensure that you will receive a return phone call, from an employee with the ability to assist you, within four (4) business hours of this contact.

Any matter not satisfactorily resolved by the listed resources should be brought to the attention of the appropriate Director listed below. We appreciate your assistance in helping us help you.

Directors, Technology Center 2800

Semi-conductors, Electrical, Optical Systems & Components

Sharon Gibson	703/308-0658	2810
Rolf G. Hille	703/306-0658	2820
Richard Seidel	703/306-3431	2830/40
Howard N. Goldberg	703/306-3431	2850/60
Janice A. Falcone	709/308-0530	2870/80